



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Shana Jones, Special Assistant
Daryl Fields, Public Affairs Officer
(210) 384-7440

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**VALLEY MILLS, TEXAS, MAN SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON
ON DRUG AND FIREARMS CHARGES**

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that 40-year-old Martin Eugene Cordell of Valley Mills, Texas, was sentenced today in Waco, Texas, to 37 months in federal prison and fined \$2,000 for possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine and being a felon in possession of a firearm.

On May 13, 2003, authorities executed a search warrant at Cordell's residence and discovered an operational methamphetamine lab located in an outbuilding on the property. Cordell informed authorities that he had been making methamphetamine for approximately one year and did admit to distributing small amounts of methamphetamine to several Valley Mills High School students although he did decline to provide the names of his customers. Officers recovered a plastic bag containing methamphetamine, a glass jar containing a white powder substance, a gallon plastic jug containing anhydrous ammonia, a blue filter with residue, a funnel, other glassware and other substances. Officers also found four firearms in the residence: a .38 caliber pistol, a .303 caliber rifle, a 12-gauge shotgun and a semi-automatic assault rifle. On August 4, 2003, Cordell pled guilty to the charges.

Cordell's criminal history reveals a 1984 Burglary of a Motor Vehicle conviction in the 220th Judicial District Court of Bosque County.

This case was investigated by the Texas Department of Public Safety, Bosque County Sheriff's Office and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Assistant United States Attorney Doug Gardner prosecuted this case on behalf of the government. The prosecution of this case is another example of how the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas is implementing the Department of Justice's gun crime initiative - Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN).

Modeled after the success of Project Exile, Project Safe Neighborhoods is a nationwide federal initiative designed to reduce gun violence in our communities. PSN promotes partnerships among federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to target violent criminals who use guns and insures that when an armed criminal is arrested, that individual will face swift criminal prosecution and be exiled from the community through the use of stiff mandatory prison sentences. This commitment to reduce gun crime includes nationwide federal funding this year of more than \$200 million, which is used to hire new federal and state prosecutors, support investigators, provide training, and develop and promote community outreach efforts.

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